

(1) Proposed by Mr. H. J. Elwes, and seconded by Mr. A. H. Evans :—

“That Ladies, qualified by special ornithological knowledge, be admitted as Honorary Members.”

(2) Proposed by Dr. F. G. Penrose, and seconded by Mr. E. Bidwell :—

“That the number of such Lady Members be limited to ten, as in the case of male Honorary Members.”

A vote of thanks to the Zoological Society of London for the use of their rooms was unanimously passed and the Meeting adjourned.

After the Meeting the joint Dinner of the British Ornithologists' Union and the British Ornithologists' Club was held at Pagani's Restaurant, Great Portland Street, and attended by the Members and their Guests.

#### XXVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 383.]

##### 51. *Bangs on some Colombian and Costa Rican Birds.*

[(1) Notes on Birds from Western Colombia. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol xxi. p. 157.

(2) A new Tyrant-bird from the Santa Marta Region of Colombia. *T. c.* p. 163.

(3) Notes on some rare or not well-known Costa Rican Birds. *Op. cit.* xxii. p. 29.]

Mr. Bangs, who is always hard at work on Colombian and Central American Birds, sends us separate copies of three papers which he has recently published. The first relates to a collection made “just south of Darien,” which contained examples of 110 species and subspecies. Thirteen forms are specified as being of special interest, amongst which are two rare Tanagers—*Chlorochrysa nitidissima* and *Iridornis porphyrocephala*. The following species and subspecies are described as new :—*Aulacorhamphus petax*, *Basileuterus*

*melanotis dædalus*, *Dacnis venusta fuliginata*, *Calospiza gyroloides delecticia*, and *Atlapetes crassus*. In the second paper *Rhynchocyclus sulphurescens exortivus* from Santa Marta is characterized as a new subspecies. In the third paper new and rare species are noted or described from some collections recently made in Costa Rica by Mr. F. Underwood. The novelties are called *Trogon melanocephalus illætabilis* and *Aimophila rufescens hypæthrus*.

## 52. Bryan on Birds from Molokai (Hawaiian Islands).

[Some Birds of Molokai. By Wm. Alanson Bryan, formerly Curator of Ornithology and Taxidermist in the Bishop Museum. Occ. Pap. Bishop Mus. vol. iv. no. 2. Honolulu, 1908.]

With a view of obtaining materials for the series of Hawaiian bird-groups in the "Bishop Museum," Honolulu, Mr. Bryan spent two months (April 15th to June 15th, 1907) in the mountains of Molokai. His main object was to get specimens of the "Black Mamo" (*Drepanorhamphus funereus*)—"one of the rarest of living birds," but other species were not neglected, and a good series of field-notes was likewise put together.

Mr. Bryan gives us a graphic account of his struggles to secure specimens of the much wished for bird. Several previous explorers had failed in doing so, and it was generally supposed that the species was quite extinct. From his various camps on the mountains of Molokai, Mr. Bryan searched the wet bog-forests, which are drenched by almost continuous rain, for many weeks in vain. At length, when he and his guide were cutting their way through a particularly dense and unpromising jungle, they heard "a clear, gentle, even whistle, Ho-a," uttered by some bird not fifty yards away. Mr. Bryan began to imitate the call as well as he could, and the curious black bird with its wonderfully curved bill flew down, and perched in a tree within ten feet of him. Thus the first specimen was obtained, though it was most difficult, when shot, to find it in the dense herbage. Two fine adult male individuals were subsequently procured in the same district.

Besides describing his adventures in searching for the "Hoa" or "Black Mano," Mr. Bryan supplies us with many interesting field-notes on other birds met with during his two months' exploration of the damp forests of Molokai. The *Phœornis* of this island, of which a good series was obtained, proves to be a different representative species of this peculiar genus, and is described as new under the name of *Phœornis eritha*. Mr. Bryan was also so fortunate as to discover a large colony of one of the Petrels of the genus *Æstrelata* (*Æ. sandwichensis*), which, after the manner of its fellows, breeds in holes on the cliffs of Molokai at an elevation of from 3500 to 4000 feet. He accompanied a party of native bird-catchers, who visit the cliffs every breeding-season to obtain the young birds, which are regarded as a "special delicacy by all Hawaiians." This Petrel has been hitherto regarded as a great rarity, but appears to be still abundant in this locality. On the present occasion twenty-one examples were obtained, but their numbers are said to be fast decreasing owing to the ravages of the Mongoose, which has been unfortunately introduced into the island and has destroyed many of the ground-frequenting birds.

### 53. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club.*

[Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club. Vol. xxii. Report on the Immigrations of Summer Residents in the Spring of 1907: also Notes on the Migratory Movements during the Autumn of 1906. London: October 1908. Price 6s.]

As will be seen from the title, this Report differs from those of former years in containing notes referring to the Autumn Migration, which were received from a limited number of observers, while it is proposed to augment this section considerably in the immediate future. The details of the movements observed at the lighthouses are given separately, and might perhaps have been accompanied by a map of the stations.

We have read the report carefully and find no special



points to discuss, though our attention is called to the fact that there were no very great "rushes" of migrants in this wet cold spring, and that the height of the migration was from April 15th to May 20th. It seems, however, that the lists of species arriving on the different parts of the coasts (p. 11) need reconsideration; for instance, the Ring-Ouzel is entered as arriving *solely* on the western half of the south coast, while on p. 37 that species is reported from the Spurn Head Lighthouse and from Norfolk. The meaning may be that on the *south coast* the bird only arrives on the western half; but in that case the wording should be clearer.

#### 54. *Carriker on Costa Rican Formicariidæ.*

[Notes on Costa Rican Formicariidæ. By M. A. Carriker, jun. Ann. Carn. Mus. v. no. 1 (1908).]

In going through the series of Formicariidæ in the Carnegie Museum at Pittsburg Mr. M. A. Carriker has made several discoveries relating to the specimens collected in Costa Rica by himself in the years from 1902 to 1907. These relate to *Cercomacra tyrannina* and the subspecies named by Mr. Bangs *C. crepera*, which neither Mr. Carriker nor Mr. Ridgway seems to consider valid; to *Drymophila stictoptera* Lawrence, which is regarded as the male of *D. læmosticta* Salvin; and to *Myrmelastes immaculata occi-dentalis* Cherrie, and its rank, which Mr. Carriker considers should be specific and not subspecific.

#### 55. *Chapman's "Habitat" Bird-Groups.*

[The Habitat Groups of North-American Birds in the American Museum of Natural History. By Frank M. Chapman, Curator of Ornithology. Guide Leaflet, Series no. 28. February 1909.]

At South Kensington, as we all know, the plan adopted for the exhibition of the select mounted specimens of birds is to place examples of each species with the nests, eggs, and other appurtenances in a separate case. In the American Museum of Natural History at New York a some-



what different arrangement is pursued. The groups of birds, which are placed in a Hall by themselves, are designed to illustrate not only the postures and habits, but also the haunts of the different species. Besides the specimens themselves (male, female, nest, eggs, and young) a reproduction of from 60 to 160 square feet of the country surrounding each group is attempted. "To the accurate and realistic representation of the home of the species is added a painting, taken from nature, of its habitat, the real foreground being connected with the painted background in such a manner that one often does not at first see where the former ends and the latter begins. The whole therefore gives an adequate conception of the nature of the country which the birds inhabit, and the conditions under which they live."

The plan seems to be excellent, and, though we have never had the good fortune to see the "Habitat Bird-Groups," we are told by those who have inspected them that the scheme has been carried out in the most happy and efficient manner, and that the "Hall" of Bird-Groups is a most attractive sight.

The "leaflet" now before us contains a series of photographic reproductions of the "Bird-Groups," some twenty or more in number, while a map of North America" shews by dots the exact localities represented in them. They are distributed all over the Continent, from the Canadian Rockies to Arizona on the west, and from the St. Lawrence to the Bahamas on the east. Each picture has an explanatory sheet of letterpress attached to it, which contains the chief particulars of the scene in popular language.

While fully admitting the value and interest of Mr. Chapman's work, we, nevertheless, venture a small criticism on the name which he has given to it. "*Habitat*" is simply the third person singular of the verb "*habito*" and means "it dwells." Its frequent use as a substantive is, of course, well known to every naturalist, but it is not grammatical and its employment as a title in apposition to "Bird-Groups" seems to us to form rather an unhappy combination.

56. *Chapman on the Booby and Man-of-War Birds.*

[A Contribution to the Life-histories of the Booby (*Sula leucogastra*) and the Man-of-War Bird (*Fregata aquila*). By Frank M. Chapman. Extr. from Publ. 103, Carnegie Inst. of Washington, pp. 139-151 (1908).]

Mr. Chapman left Nassau, Bahamas, on March 31st, 1907, by the 'Physalia,' for Cay Verde, about 230 miles to the south-east, in order to procure "specimens, accessories, photographs and other data" to be used in preparing "habitat groups" of the Booby and Man-of-War Bird for the American Museum of Natural History at New York. Owing to unforeseen delays only three days and nights could be passed on Cay Verde; but so little has yet been recorded of the breeding-habits in the Bahamas of the two birds in question that it was thought that what was observed, even in this short period, would be worthy of description.

After an account of the exact situation and size of the little Cay, which lies on the eastern edge of the Columbus Bank, thirty miles east of Little Ragged Island, the author describes its bird-life, which consists mainly of numerous migrants on passage. No Land-birds appear to be resident. He then proceeds to his main subject—the Boobies and the Frigate-birds. It was estimated that about 1500 pairs of the former species and from 200 to 300 of the latter were nesting on Cay Verde. Of both the species most of the nests contained half-grown young, but none held fresh eggs, while a few birds of the year were already on the wing. The eggs of the Boobies were deposited in slight hollows on the ground, without any attempt at a nest, but the Man-of-War Birds placed their slight nests, made of twigs and sticks, in the tops of the sea-grapes at a height of six or seven feet, or among the cactuses within two feet of the earth.

The paper is well illustrated by photographs. It is pointed out that Cay Verde from its position and isolation would be an "admirable station" for the study of the migration of birds in that part of the world. To this we heartily agree and may add that there is still much to be done by an active ornithologist in the Bahamas, where the winter-climate is perfect and to which access is easy.

57. *Dresser on Palæarctic Birds' Eggs.*

[Eggs of the Birds of Europe, including all the Species inhabiting the Western Palæarctic Area. By H. E. Dresser. London. Parts XVII., XVIII. (April 1909).]

These parts of Mr. Dresser's work continue the Anatidæ and proceed to the Columbidaë, Pteroclidæ, Phasianidaë, and Tetraonidaë, with the addition of *Turnix sylvatica*, *Rallus aquaticus*, and *Porzana maruetta*. The plates include eggs of the Anatidæ, Pteroclidæ, *Tetrax*, *Ædicnemus*, the *Charadriidaë*, *Glareolidaë*, *Himantopus*, and *Recurvirostra*.

The letterpress calls for no special remarks and we may therefore devote our attention to the plates, which are exceptionally good. In former parts of the book the shadows of the eggs were not always successfully managed, but this difficulty seems now to have been entirely overcome, and we are presented with a series of specimens which stand out well and are very true to nature. In fact, in our opinion, no other representations of eggs have ever been quite so good. Even those of the Ducks shew the differences well, by no means an easy matter; those of the Sand-Grouse and Plover-tribe are beautiful, and the few remaining figures are well up to the mark. The examples are admirably chosen and often remarkable; in the case of the Oyster-catcher and Avocet alone should we like a more typical variety.

58. '*The Emu*,' 1908-1909.

[The Emu. A Quarterly Magazine to popularize the Study and Protection of Native Birds. Vol. viii. pts. 2-4 (Oct. 1908, Jan.-April 1909).]

Even in the wonderful land of Australia there is a limit to new discoveries, and comparatively few are recorded in these parts. In part 3, however, Mr. G. M. Mathews describes *Malurus dulcis*, sp. n., from the South Alligator River district in Arnheim Land. The specimen was sent by Mr. J. T. Tunney to the Tring Museum, where it was at first identified as *M. pulcherrimus*. Mr. A. J. Campbell in the same part proposes the name of *Pardalotus pallidus* for an apparently new form, and adds further information as to the habitat and breeding of *Pachycephala lanioides*, hitherto known



from one example only. Similar information is given on *Collocalia francica*.

In part 2 Mr. D. Le Souef has an article on new or rare eggs belonging to thirteen Australian species, and Mr. T. Carter a note on the discovery of *Calamanthus montanellus*. Mr. A. H. Mattingley commences an article on the Mallee Fowl (*Lipoa ocellata*), which is continued in part 3. It is many years since we read so good a description of the nesting-habits of this bird, and the present account is exceptionally full and well illustrated. The great irregularity in the deposition of the eggs seems to be quite a new point. Mr. E. M. Cornwall follows with the second part of his Notes referring to Mackay, N. Queensland; and in part 4 Mr. F. L. Whitlock writes on the birds observed on the Pilbarra Goldfield, N.W. Australia.

Other papers are by Mr. Gibson (Abrolhos Islands); Dove (Essenden, Victoria); Stead (Black Cormorant in New Zealand); Cole (Cormorants in Victoria); Hill (Montague Island); Howe (N.W. Victoria); and Miss Fletcher (Cleveland, Tasmania). Mr. A. G. Campbell writes a monograph on the Flame-breasted Robin, and Mr. R. Hall gives notes on the migration of *Cypselus pacificus*.

There are a considerable number of illustrations in these three parts, and a graphic narrative is furnished by Capt. S. A. White of the A. O. U. Expedition to the islands of Bass Straits, while Mr. A. J. Campbell describes the simultaneous "camp-out" on Philip Island.

A sketch of a great forward movement in Bird-Protection is given in part 2, with which may be coupled the "Minutes of Conference of State Government Representatives on Bird-Protection" that follow in part 4.

### 59. Flower and Nicoll on the Wild Birds of the Giza Gardens.

[Zoological Gardens, Giza, near Cairo. Special Report No. 3. Wild Birds of the Giza Gardens, 1898-1908. By Stanley S. Flower and Michael J. Nicoll. Cairo, 1908. 8vo. 111 pp.]

On several previous occasions we have alluded to the various birds that resort more or less frequently to the

Zoological Gardens at Giza, near Cairo. In this report Captain Stanley Flower, with the assistance of Mr. Michael Nicoll, gives a list of the species that have been noticed there during the past ten years. As they belong, with but few exceptions, to the category of "British Birds," this list will be of considerable interest to the students of British Bird-life, as well as to ornithologists in general.

The Giza Gardens, which occupy an area of about 52 acres, are on the left bank of the Nile opposite Cairo, and are on the tramway which connects Cairo with the Pyramids. One of their chief attractions, after the Menagerie in its well-kept condition, is the number and variety of the wild birds to be observed there, especially during the vernal and autumnal periods of migration. Great pains have been taken to encourage and protect such birds in every way, and the result is that the occurrence of no less than 155 species has been recorded during the past ten years.

In order to identify the species more certainly the authors give references to Shelley's 'Birds of Egypt' and Saunders's 'Manual,' the two books most likely to be in the hands of the ornithologist who visits Egypt, while they generally follow Saunders's arrangement and nomenclature. At the beginning of the "List" many of our friends will be surprised to find the Blackbird (*Turdus merula*), the Song-Thrush (*T. musicus*), and the Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) described as "regular winter-visitors." But such is undoubtedly, we believe, the case with these three birds, which in England many look upon as common and constant residents, although in many places the Song-Thrush decreases in numbers in the winter, especially when the weather is severe. On the other hand, the Rufous Warbler (*Aëdon galactodes*) and the Olivaceous Warbler (*Hypolais pallida*) are summer-visitors at Giza, arriving from the south in March and April and nesting in the Gardens. Among the species met with at Giza which are not recognised as Egyptian by Shelley are the Siskin (*Chrysomitris spinus*), the Blue Rock-Chat (*Myrmecocichla melanura*), a Nuthatch (*Sitta*) of some sort, the Red-breasted Flycatcher (*Muscicapa parva*), and the Levant

Sparrow-Hawk (*Accipiter brevipes*). The Pied Kingfisher (*Ceryle rudis*) is the dominant form of the Alcedinidæ in Egypt; on the 5th of May, 1902, twenty-four of these birds were counted in one part of the Giza Gardens. Our Cuckoo (*Cuculus canorus*) is a "regular visitor in small numbers, in spring and autumn," but has never been heard to emit its characteristic love-note there. Such are some of the "plums" that we venture to pick out from this interesting memoir, which should be in the hands of every bird-lover who goes to Egypt.

60. *Gadow's 'Southern Mexico.'*

[Through Southern Mexico, being an Account of the Travels of a Naturalist. By Hans Gadow, M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S. 1 vol. 527 pp. Witherby & Co. Price 18s. net.]

A well-written record of journeyings in a little known part of the world, interspersed with notices of its animals and plants, and profusely illustrated by original photographs, is sure to be an attractive piece of work, and Dr. Gadow's volume comes well under this category. Though a few English travellers have written about Mexico of late years, and a magnificent work on its Biology is now nearly complete, that country has been left mainly to our cousins on the north side of the Republic, where railways and hotels have rendered it easy of access. Dr. Gadow and his wife, however, selected for their investigation the most remote portion of Mexico, where the American invader had hardly penetrated and "wild nature" is in many places still almost undisturbed.

Although it might be supposed that the "Strickland Curator," even when abroad, would not fail to devote his main investigations to birds, Dr. Gadow did not take this severe view of his duties, and rather turned his attention to the inferior class of Reptiles. Nevertheless we find a certain number of "birdy" passages in the volume. A lively description of the curious ways and manners of the "garra-pateros" (*Crotophaga sulcirostris*) is given. This "funny-looking" Cuckoo is ever present in the grassy part of the



Mexican hot-lands, and has, as is well-known, eccentric breeding-habits, but not those of our European Cuckoo. Several females lay their eggs in one nest, in which they sit in company, while, there not being room for all of them at once, the excluded ones perch upon the margin of the nest and wait their turn to "go on."

On the ride from Tehuantepec to Oaxaca an abundance of bird-life was met with. "Long-tailed Parrakeets whirled round in swarms, and the short-tailed Lories climbed about in pairs, while little Inca Doves and brown Pigeons, Grackles and Cassiques, Hawks and Cormorants, Herons, and black and red-faced Vultures were also to be seen." But the pretty long-tailed blue and white Jays—well-named *Calocitta formosa*—were the favourites, and watched the party from the overhanging branches with their top-knots well curved forwards (as shown in an accompanying illustration), and were so confiding as to whistle back when whistled to. It is new to us that the Mexican Hang-nests (*Icterus*) have taken to tying their pendent houses to the telegraph-wires (p. 207), and that *Hirundo callorhina* (whatever that may be?) places its nests on the eaves of the old houses. But the reader of Dr. Gadow's volume will find these and other interesting facts described in its pages, and we strongly recommend its perusal, although we think that a little more ornithology might have been well introduced into it.

#### 61. *Godman's 'Monograph of the Petrels.'*

[A Monograph of the Petrels (Order Tubinares). By F. DuCane Godman, D.C.L., F.R.S., President of the British Ornithologists' Union. With hand-coloured plates by J. G. Keulemans. Part IV. Witherby & Co., April 1909.]

In January (see above, p. 175) we noticed the issue of Part III. of this important work. We have now to record the publication of the fourth part, which continues the account of the numerous species of *Æstrelata* until its termination with *Æ. axillaris* of the Chatham Islands. Altogether thirty-two species of this genus are recognised, of which all but five are figured in Mr. Keulemans's best

style. The other genera treated in the present number are *Pagodroma*, *Bulweria*, *Macronectes*, *Fulmarus*, *Daption*, *Halobæna*, and *Prion*. *Macronectes*, we may remark, is a new name for *Ossifraga*, it having been discovered that the latter term has been previously used in Zoology in 1835. The next number, we believe, will be mainly devoted to the Albatrosses, and Part VI. will conclude the work.

62. *Grinnell on the Birds of the San Bernardino Mountains.*

[The Biota of the San Bernardino Mountains. By Joseph Grinnell. University of California Publications in Zoology, vol. v. No. 1, pp. 1-170. Berkeley, Cal., 1908.]

This memoir contains the results of explorations of the San Bernardino Mountains in 1905, 1906, and 1907. But some of our readers may ask, where are these mountains? To this we answer, in the words of the author, "The San Bernardino Mountains constitute the largest high mountain-group in Southern California, and include the highest peak south of Mt. Whitney. The forested area is more extensive than elsewhere in Southern California." Furthermore the isolation of this mountain-group from any other of approximately similar altitude affords an attractive feature. Mr. Grinnell's map and sections fully illustrate these points, and shew that the Lower Sonoran Zone, the Upper Sonoran Zone, the Transition Zone, and at least the two lower divisions of the Boreal Zone (of Dr. Merriam) are represented in this mountain-range.

Mr. Grinnell discusses at full length the Plants, Birds, Mammals, and Reptiles which he collected, in order to establish these views. The Birds, with which we are mainly concerned, met with special attention, as might be expected from the Editor of 'The Condor.' Over 1260 skins were collected, as well as many nests and eggs. Of 139 species found in the district examined, 48 are believed to be permanently resident, 68 are summer visitors, and only 23 are transient.

The following passage contains Mr. Grinnell's general views as to the Avifauna of this mountain-group:—"The Ornis of the San Bernardino Mountains, in common with

that of the other high mountains of Southern California, bears the closest resemblance to that of the Sierra Nevada of east-central California. A tendency towards increase in size of such San Bernardino species as are subject to geographical variation is quite noticeable ; so that in certain cases, such as the Hermit-Thrush and Creeper, the San Bernardino birds are somewhat intermediate in the direction of the Rocky Mountain races. Other species, like the Stephens' Fox-Sparrow and the Grey Flycatcher, show large size, but are without parallels in the Rocky Mountain region. With variable birds in the mountain systems of California, there seems to be a general increase of size from the north towards the south, a reversal of the case on the Atlantic Coast."

63. *Hanitsch on the Raffles Museum, Singapore.*

[Guide to the Zoological Collections of the Raffles Museum, Singapore. By R. Hanitsch, Ph.D., Director. With 21 plates. Singapore, 1908. October. 112 pp.]

Dr. Hanitsch has kindly sent us a copy of his lately published "Guide" to the zoological portion of the Museum at Singapore, of which he is the Director. It is of course quite of a popular character. It is written in English, and therefore is not available for the native Malay. But it is hoped that it may be useful to the European schoolboy, who visits the galleries in steadily increasing numbers.

The section relating to the "Birds" contains about twenty pages, and is, like the rest of the "Guide," almost entirely devoted to the characteristic forms of the Malay Peninsula, which, as is well known, are abundant and remarkable. The peninsula is the headquarters of the Burmese Pea-fowl and Argus Pheasant, besides other splendid members of the Gallinaceous Group. The Malayan Pigeons are likewise numerous. Other remarkable Malaccan groups are the Barbets, Hornbills, Trogons, Broadbills, and Sun-birds, on all of which comments are made. We have no doubt that the publication of this "Guide" will bring many additions to the shelves of the Raffles Museum.



64. *Howard's 'British Warblers.'*

[The British Warblers: a History with Problems of their Lives. By H. Eliot Howard. Pt. III. London: R. H. Porter, Feb. 1909. Price 21s. net.]

We have before us another part of Mr. Howard's 'British Warblers,' and find the illustrations, which are one of the great features of the work, as good as, if not better than formerly. Coloured figures are given of the Chiffchaff in autumn plumage, the male and female Blackcap-Warbler, Pallas's Willow-Warbler, and Radde's Bush-Warbler, photogravures of the female Chiffchaff and of Blackcaps under various conditions completing the series. It is hardly possible to say which we admire the most, but certainly the delicacy and softness of the last-mentioned are most remarkable.

The letterpress discusses in very full style the life-history of the Blackcap—especially the courtship, the habits during breeding, and the vocal powers. Four points are emphasized in particular: the development of the song of the male from year to year, its deterioration after coition, the powers of imitation, and evidence of emulation. Incidentally Mr. Howard tells us that he believes that the acquired power of imitation may be inherited, and throughout he shews how carefully and thoroughly he has investigated the phenomena with which he deals.

As usual, no life-histories are given of the species that do not breed in Britain.

65. *Jourdain on European Birds' Eggs.*

[The Eggs of European Birds. By Rev. F. C. R. Jourdain. London, 1909. 8vo. Pt. III. pp. 161-240, pls. 15, 21, 22, 28, 29, 60, 69, 72, 87, 88, 90, 92, 94, 105.]

Mr. Jourdain's book has now reached its third part, which concludes the *Motacillidæ*, and treats of the *Certhiidæ* (including *Sitta*), the *Paridæ* (including *Regulus* and *Panurus*), and the *Laniidæ*. The letterpress fully maintains

its excellence, and is even more interesting than usual, as it contains the critical races of Creepers, Tits, and so forth. An instance in point is the difference of habits between the Marsh- and Willow-Tits, where we quite agree with the author that the latter in all probability excavates its own nesting-hole and utters a peculiar note.

The plates are very good and the impressions clear, the figures of the eggs of *Molothrus cabanisi*, *Cisticola cisticola*, *Sylvia melanocephala*, *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*, *A. arundinaceus*, *Totanus fuscus*, and *Numenius phaeopus* being admirable. The larger eggs are the least successful and come out rather flat-looking. The variety of the egg of the Goldcrest with a white ground is not included, and the colour in the case of the Grasshopper Warbler is scarcely pink enough. But our only real objection is to the number of very similar eggs figured of the Redshank, Black-tailed Godwit, Noddy, and Adriatic Gull, or—in a lesser degree—to the absence of a representation of a boldly marked specimen of the Stone-Curlew, such as is not uncommon.

#### 66. *Knight on the Birds of Maine.*

[The Birds of Maine, with Key to and Description of the various Species known to occur or to have occurred in the State, an Account of their Distribution and Migration, showing their relative abundance in the various Counties of the State as well as other regions, and Contributions to their Life-histories. By Ora Willis Knight, M.S. Bangor, Maine: 1908. 1 vol. 8vo. 693 pp.]

The love of birds is far spread in America, and most of the enlightened States of the East and West have Manuals of their native species. Here we find a good solid volume on the Birds of Maine, which will be also serviceable for the dwellers in Lower Canada, which the State of Maine so closely adjoins. A List of the Birds of Maine was published some years ago, and, as will be seen by the 'Bibliography' in the present volume, a large number of books and memoirs refer more or less to the subject. But the present publication is much more than a List. It is, in fact, a complete treatise on the Ornis of the State, containing descriptions of all the species, keys to assist in their identification, and

all necessary particulars concerning their prevalence and distribution in the different parts of Maine.

The author estimates the species of birds as positively occurring, or having occurred of their own free will, within the limits of his work as 327. Of these only 26 are permanent residents, including 2 introduced species, whereas the summer-visitors are as many as 115, and those occurring chiefly or entirely as transient visitors are 75. The winter-residents and winter-visitants of fairly general or regular occurrence are 40; the accidental visitors or occasional stragglers are 67; whilst the remaining 4 species included in the list are now extinct.

Mr. Knight follows the arrangement and nomenclature of the American 'Check-list' throughout, and quotes its "number" at the head of each of his species. After a short description he devotes a few lines to explain its general geographical distribution, and then gives a list of the various exact localities in Maine in which it has been observed, adding carefully the authority for its observation. Full particulars then follow as to its habits, nest, and eggs, and any other point in its history worthy of record. We have, therefore, in Mr. Knight's volume a complete Handbook of the Birds of Maine, amply sufficient for the information of any resident in the State who takes a general interest in the native birds and wishes to determine a doubtful species. We have no doubt that Mr. Knight's work will have a good circulation among the residents in the State of Maine and its vicinity, and will serve to increase their knowledge of the bird-life which surrounds them.

67. *Lydekker's 'British Bird Book.'*

[The Sportsman's British Bird Book. By R. Lydekker. London: Rowland Ward, 1908. Pp. i-xviii, 1-620. Price 30s. net.]

Mr. Lydekker's book being written specially for sportsmen, he has been careful to adapt it to their chief requirements. He tells us that the descriptions have been made simple, but sufficient, and that the records of the occurrences of the rarer species are full and up to date, while short life-histories are added and figures given in every case. We cannot, however,



agree with the author in considering the illustrations true to nature. True to nature, in our opinion, means true to life; and photographs from stuffed birds or skins in Mr. Rowland Ward's series cannot be considered satisfactory. But we are far from saying that the whole work will not be found most useful to the class to whom it is intended to appeal; it may, indeed, meet all their requirements, and much of the letterpress will interest a wider circle, the coloration of the young birds being an instance in particular.

Six hundred species are included, without distinction between truly British and other forms, though square brackets are placed round the names of very rare stragglers.

No authorities are given for the facts recorded, when already published, as Mr. Lydekker considers such to be public property. He dislikes, moreover, the splitting up of generic groups, though he recognises the main races proposed by modern writers.

68. *Menegaux on the Nest of the Oven-bird.*

[Sur le nid des Fourniers (*Furnarius* Vieill.). Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. 1908, no. 1, p. 6.]

The author bases his article on four nests of a *Furnarius* procured by the "Mission de Créqui-Montfort," from Salta, in Northern Argentina. Unfortunately, no specimens of the builders of these wonderful structures were brought home, but there is little doubt, we think, that M. Menegaux is correct in referring them to *Furnarius rufus*. Most of the naturalists who have visited Argentina and Paraguay have written on the nest-building of this remarkable bird, and M. Menegaux, who has quoted Azara, Burmeister, Holland, Gibson, Goeldi, and other authors on the subject, has not, so far as we can see, added much to our knowledge of it. In fact there is not much more to be said than what has been already recorded by former writers, amongst whom Hudson, in 'Argentine Ornithology,' should be specially quoted. There is a good series of the nests of *Furnarius rufus* in the British Museum, and a specimen of it is exhibited in the Bird Gallery.

69. *Menegaux on Two new Bolivian Birds.*

[Descriptions de deux formes nouvelles d'Oiseaux rapportés de la Bolivie par la Mission de Créqui-Montfort. Par M. A. Menegaux. Bull. Mus. d'Hist. Nat. 1908, no. 7, p. 340.]

The birds described as new are *Agriornis andecola paznæ*, from a specimen obtained on the road from Pazna to Urmiri, at an elevation of 3694 metres, and *Brachypiza capensis pulacayensis* from Pulacayu and Pazna, at a height of about 4200 metres. We may remark that it is absurd, in our opinion, to call an American bird "*capensis*," the law of common-sense being more obligatory than that of priority. The so-called "*Brachypiza capensis*" is our old friend *Zonotrichia pileata*, one of the commonest and widely diffused birds in South America.

70. *North on the Nesting-site of Gerygone personata.*

[Notes on the Nesting-site of *Gerygone personata* Gould. By Alfred J. North. Rec. Austr. Mus. vii. No. 3 (1908).]

"Of the many stratagems used by birds to secure immunity from harm no more ingenious device is there than that of the Masked Bush-Warbler, which nearly always builds its hooded, dome-shaped nest close to a wasps' nest."

An excellent photograph of a nest of this bird and of the adjoining wasps' nest, taken in the scrub near Somerset, Cape York, in October 1907, illustrates this remarkable habit.

71. *North on Australian Bower-birds.*

[Notes on Newton's Bower-bird and the Tooth-billed Bower-bird. By A. J. North. Viet. Nat. xxv. p. 160 (1909).]

In this paper, which was read before the Field Naturalists' Club of Victoria on the 18th of January last, Mr. North gives us much information concerning two of the rarest and most interesting of the Australian Bower-birds, *Prionodura newtoniana* and *Scenopoëtes dentirostris*.

Newton's Bower-bird was described by Mr. De Vis in 1883, but it was not until November 1908 that its nesting-place was discovered "by Mr. George Sharp's black boys" in

the dense scrub about thirty miles from Atherton, in Queensland. The nest is an open cup-shaped structure placed in or near a tree-trunk. The eggs are of a nearly uniform faint creamy or warm white, "totally different from those of the typical Bower-birds, which are noted for their strikingly contrasted colours and the peculiarity of their markings." The curious habits of the males and the large bowers which they construct are described from Mr. Sharp's information. He also tells us that the hen builds a bower for herself, similar to that of the male, but much smaller.

The Tooth-billed Bower-bird, which was originally described by Ramsay in 1875, has also long remained unknown as regards its nesting-habits, but Mr. Sharp has solved this riddle also. As is told us by Mr. North, Mr. Sharp found the first nest of this bird about five miles from Atherton, in N.E. Queensland, on the 7th of November, 1908, and a second on the following day. The nest is a frail structure very loosely built, as will be seen by Mr. North's figure of it. The first nest contained two eggs of a uniform creamy-brown colour, resembling very much the eggs of *Ælurædus maculosus*. Strictly speaking, however, *Scenopoëtes* is not a Bower-bird, for it makes no bower. On the other hand, it is not a true Cat-bird, for it forms a playground, which the Cat-birds do not. Mr. Sharp's field-notes on both these species, which are given by Mr. North at full length, are of great interest, and he well deserves the best thanks of all ornithologists for the trouble he has taken in the matter.

#### 72. North on a new Australian Parrot.

[Note on some Living Examples of *Psephotus dissimilis*. By Alfred J. North. Vict. Nat. xxv. p. 175 (1909).]

Mr. North examined at Sydney 16 living specimens of a Parrakeet brought from Pine Creek, some 200 miles S.E. of Port Darwin, in the Northern Territory of South Australia. At first he regarded them as referable to *Psephotus dissimilis* of Collett described from the same locality (*cf.* Hartert, Nov. Zool. xii. p. 214), but on further examination



he found certain differences, which are pointed out. Should it prove to belong to a distinct species, Mr. North proposes for it the name *Psephotus cucullatus*.

### 73. Oberholser on the Alcedinine Genus *Ramphalcyon*.

[A Revision of the Kingfisher Genus *Ramphalcyon* (*Pelargopsis*). By Harry C. Oberholser. Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. xxxv. p. 657. Washington, Feb. 1909.]

The persistent efforts of Dr. W. L. Abbott during his various explorations of the East Indian Islands have furnished the U.S. National Museum with a good set of specimens of Kingfishers of the genus *Pelargopsis*, which have been the main basis of the present memoir. Mr. Oberholser prefers to call the genus *Ramphalcyon*, because, as he says, "Gloger's term *Pelargopsis* is certainly not identifiable." As regards this, however, we may point out that "*Ramphalcyon*" seems to be in a similar scrape. It was published by Reichenbach in 1851 without a description of any sort, and no type was ever assigned to it by its author. Under these circumstances we see no reason why *Pelargopsis*, which was adopted by Cabanis and Heine in 1860, should be superseded.

Mr. Oberholser divides the genus *Ramphalcyon* (scr. "*Rhamphalcyon*") into three sections, each of one species—*R. amauroptera*, *R. melanorhyncha*, and *R. capensis*. The second of these species is divided into three subspecies and the third into sixteen subspecies. Of the latter group four new subspecies are characterized—*R. c. isoptera*, *R. c. nisoeca*, *R. c. cyanopteryx*, and *R. c. hydrophila*. But some of these so-called subspecies (e. g. *R. gigantea*) are manifestly so different as to be entitled to full specific rank, while some of the others seem to be founded on very weak characters. It seems to us also a great mistake to call sixteen birds which belong to a purely Oriental group "*capensis*," and we fully agree with Dr. Sharpe in the "manifest incongruity of such an appellation." It is, moreover, quite impossible to decide to which of the closely allied forms Linnæus's name *Alcedo capensis* should be referred. The appellation *capensis* is consequently void for uncertainty, and in our opinion should be rejected altogether.

74. *Ogawa's 'List of the Birds of Japan.'*

[A Hand-list of the Birds of Japan. By Minori Ogawa. Ann. Zool. Japon. vol. vi. p. 337 (Dec. 1908). Tokyo.]

The sixth volume of the 'Annotationes Zoologicæ Japonenses' (auspiciis Societatis Zoologicæ Tokyonensis seriatim editæ) closes with a revised list of the Birds of Japan (exclusive of Saghalin and Formosa) prepared by the late Minori Ogawa. The list gives the names and most important synonyms of the 502 species and subspecies recognised by the author as belonging to the "Fauna Japonica." The native Japanese names and the exact localities are likewise given.

The editor of the 'Annotationes' adds the following remarks on the sad fate of this young and promising zoologist:—

"While this List was passing through the press the author Mr. Minori Ogawa died, after a long illness. Thus was frustrated the expectation which the author had entertained to greatly improve the form and matter of the List. In the deceased we have lost a young and enthusiastic observer of birds and bird-life, which, in the dearth of scientifically trained ornithologists in this part of the world, will be keenly felt by all who take interest in the progress of zoological knowledge."

A former very useful article prepared by Ogawa (on the birds of the Japanese Islands) will be found noticed in this Journal for 1906 (p. 593).

75. *Oustalet on the Birds of Foa's Expeditions.*

[Resultats scientifiques des Voyages in Afrique d'Edouard Foa, publiées sous les auspices du Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle. Paris, 1908. 4to. 731 pp.]

Among the contributions of various Naturalists to the Memorial Volume of the late Edouard Foa, a distinguished traveller in Africa, is a short memoir by the late Emile Oustalet on the birds which Foa had collected and presented

to the French National Museum. They are referred to 72 species, mostly procured in Nyasaland and Zambesia at different places, and generally well known. This is an extension of the List published by the same author in the 'Bulletin' of the Museum for 1898 (iv. p. 58).

76. *Sharpe on the Ornithological Literature of 1907.*

[Zoological Record. Vol. xliv. 1907. Aves, by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D. 8vo. 138 pp. London, Dec. 1908. Price 6s.]

Under the new system, which we described last year ('Ibis,' 1908, p. 539), the 'Zoological Record,' now published by the Royal Society of London for the International Council and for the Zoological Society of London, seems to progress and prosper. The section of "Aves," as last year, has been undertaken by Dr. Bowdler Sharpe. The list of titles with which it commences is longer than ever, embracing about 70 pages of double columns. It may be said that some of the papers entered in it are frivolous; but, even if this is really the case, they do no harm, and the "List of Titles" should be as complete as it can be made and should contain the names of all authors who write on Birds.

After the List of Titles comes the "Subject Index," in which the previous titles of the List are referred to by the author's name and the number of the title attached to it in the List. This portion likewise appears to be full and complete. The geographical section (p. 81) will be most useful to ornithologists, as will also the "Systematic Index," which concludes the section "Aves."

We observe that the error in the name of the "Cathartiformes" (p. 106) which we pointed out last year has not been corrected. We may also remark that we can find no mention of Wytsmann's 'Genera Avium' in the 'Record,' although two parts (part vii. Steganopodes, and part viii. Musophagidæ) were issued in 1907, and Dr. Sharpe's name appears on the titlepage as that of a contributor to the work in question.



77. *Snouckaert van Schauburg's 'Avifauna Neerlandica.'*

[*Avifauna Neerlandica*—Lijst der tot dusverre in Nederland in wilden staat waargenomen Vogelsoorten, door Mr. Dr. R. C. E. G. J. Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, Voorzitter der Nederlandsche Ornithologische Vereeniging. Met 12 Illustratien, door den Heer T. Csörgey. 1 vol. Leeuwarden, Melier & Schaapsma. 1908.]

In our last number (above, p. 379) we gave a notice of Dr. Van Oort's memoir on the Birds of the Netherlands, and stated that a copy of another work on the same subject, prepared by Baron Snouckaert van Schauburg, had also been received. This last-mentioned volume is now before us, and we have great pleasure in introducing it to British ornithologists, who will find it very useful in tracing out the range of British species.

The author writes in his native language, which is obviously proper in his case, but Dutch is so closely allied to English that there will be little difficulty in understanding it, especially for those who have some acquaintance with German. He begins, we are glad to say, with the highest birds, not with the lowest, and enumerates 332 species to be included in the '*Avifauna Neerlandica*.' No descriptions are given of the species, but sufficient references to other works in which descriptions can be found are added, and the exact mode of the occurrence of every species and its frequency or scarceness are concisely stated. In his nomenclature Baron Snouckaert is still more of a trinomialist than Dr. Van Oort, nearly every species being provided with three names. He has likewise fallen into the bad habit of altering some of Linnæus's best-known specific terms—for example, calling *Muscicapa grisola* "*Muscicapa striata*." In our opinion, Linnæus's terms ought to be held sacred for all generations, especially when, as in the case alluded to, the authorship of the work from which the novel term is taken is by no means certain.

Twelve nicely drawn coloured plates ornament the present work. We should mention that *Turdus coburni* Sharpe (Bull. B. O. C. xii. p. 28, 1901) is included in the present work on the faith of a specimen obtained in Holland on

March 15th, 1895. But we cannot believe that this supposed species is anything more than a "sport" of *Turdus iliacus*.

78. *South African Ornithologists' Union, Journal of the.*

[The Journal of the South African Ornithologists' Union. Edited by Alwin Haagner, F.Z.S., Dr. J. W. B. Gunning, and B. C. R. Langford. Vol. v. no. 1. Pretoria, Transvaal. April 1909.]

We have received vol. v. no. 1 of this Journal. It commences with the Report of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the S. A. O. U., which was held at Grahamstown, in the Zoological Laboratory of the Rhodes University College, Dr. Duerden, Professor of Zoology at the College, President, in the Chair, and seems to have passed off very successfully. Dr. Duerden gave an interesting and useful Presidential Address on the domesticated Ostrich of South Africa, which is printed in this number. This is followed by a note on the Black-faced Love-bird (*Agapornis nigrigenis*\*), illustrated by an excellent plate of this lovely species, which appears to be plentiful in North-western Rhodesia, and occurs also in German West Africa. Other papers are by Major Stevenson Hamilton "On Migratory Birds at Komatipoort," by the Rev. Noel Robarts "On *Pyromelana oryx*," and by Mr. P. A. Sheppard "On the Birds of Beira."

79. *Stone on Methods of Recording the Migration of Birds.*

[Methods of Recording and Utilizing Bird-Migration Data. By Wilmer Stone. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1908, pp. 128-156.]

It is clear that the migration data which a single individual can furnish must of necessity be meagre, and that he may miss many birds or fail to see them on first arrival. The Delaware Valley Ornithological Club therefore has taken the lead in America in organizing corps of observers

\* See W. L. Sclater, Bull. B. O. C. xvi, p. 61 (1906). This species has also been figured in the Av. Mag., Oct. 1908, from living specimens, and there are two pairs of it in the Zoological Society's Gardens.

in limited areas, and hopes to arrive at more reliable conclusions from their joint evidence, both as to the earliest arrival of a species and the arrival of "the bulk." And "the bulk," which observers are specially requested to note, is that of flocks of different species rather than flocks of each separate species. The author considers, moreover, that in the case of individual records the best plan is to select the date at which the species had arrived at half of the stations, though he admits that even this method leaves room for error.

By means of graphs curves may be traced of the movements of any particular form, and specimens are given of such curves compared with similar curves in each case for temperature.

The method proposed appears to be an improvement on those used at present, and we shall watch with interest its fuller development.

#### 80. *Van Oort on Birds from New Guinea.*

[Note XXI. On New Guinea Birds. II. By Dr. E. D. Van Oort. Notes Leyd. Mus. vol. xxx. p. 225.]

Dr. Van Oort gives an account of three collections of birds from New Guinea lately received by the Leyden Museum. Two of these, from Western New Guinea, were presented by Mr. Palmer van den Brock and Mr. P. J. van Cloven, while the third (from the Owen-Stanley Mountains) was purchased of Mr. J. Henkelman.

The specimens are referred to about 60 species and subspecies, amongst which *Cyclopsitta desmaresti intermedia*, *Orthonyx temmincki victoriana* (from Mt. Victoria, 12,000 ft.), and *Machæirhynchus nigripectus harterti* are described as new subspecies. Some good Paradise-birds are represented in the series—*Cnemophilus macgregori*, *Pteridophora alberti*, and *Macgregoria pulchra*. One adult specimen of the curious *Paramythia montium* from the Owen-Stanley Mountains is likewise catalogued.